

We have had lunch with him. We have walked the halls of Congress. We recently have heard his wisdom. And all of us will agree his personality has uplifted us all. He will be sadly missed. And I know all of us will be speaking more about his death, but I share with my colleague from Massachusetts what an extraordinarily likeable, friendly, and uplifting individual this was. I give my best sentiments to his family and his friends.

ON THE PASSING OF THE HON. HERBERT H. BATEMAN, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

(Mr. HORN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BATEMAN) was a beloved person in this Chamber; and the tragedy, as he is retiring, we all felt that way, that it would be a real loss. Now it is a real loss generally to humanity.

But the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BATEMAN) was, without question, the most ethical Member of Congress one could ever find. He also was one who, when he got up to speak, people listened because they knew he had given great depth of thought to the matter at hand and they knew that he was generally doing the right thing. It is a real loss to the colleagues that he could not finish out this Congress.

Wherever he is, and I suspect he is in the right place up above, and if he is there, he will probably share the parliamentarian's role, also the role of being very thorough about whatever he does.

DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY ON FIRESTONE/FORD TIRE RECALL

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, last week we had a hearing in Congress into the recent recall by Ford and Firestone of over 6 million tires. These tires have been attributed to hundreds of vehicle crashes and at least 88 fatalities.

Florida, my home State, is fourth in the number of crashes yet has the highest number of these fatalities, at 21.

Just recently, I received a letter from a constituent whose son and his fiancée were killed when their Ford Explorer crashed as a result of the rear tire tread separation. This is what the constituent wrote to me.

"Their deaths could have been prevented had Ford and Firestone taken action when they knew the potential for injury."

That is the purpose of our investigations here in Congress. When exactly did these companies know there was a problem, and why did they wait until this summer to initiate a recall?

My constituents demand accountability.

So, my colleagues, it is time to have additional hearings and to find out why these companies should stop the finger pointing at each other and give us the tough answers.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO CREATE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, next week I will be introducing legislation to create an Office of Management within the Executive Office of the President. This proposal complements and extends the efforts of recent Congresses to focus on one of the greatest challenges facing the Federal Government: finding an effective way to manage the complex collection of Government cabinet departments, independent agencies, and laws and regulations that exist to serve the public and provide for our national security.

Some might argue that this proposal is unnecessary or unimportant. Those arguments are profoundly misguided. The challenge of effectively managing our government is, in fact, one of the most vital issues before us.

If we hope to solve the long-term problems that threaten Social Security and Medicare, if we hope to strengthen our social safety net for children and other vulnerable members of our society, if we want to reduce the tax burden on American families, then we must start with a well-managed Federal Government.

As most Members of Congress know, each year we receive reports that billions of taxpayers dollars are lost to waste, fraud, or misuse.

A January 26, 1999, report by the General Accounting Office stated: "We have identified several Government programs that are not managed effectively or that experience chronic waste and inefficiency."

In fact, the General Accounting Office report identified 29 large programs and agencies that were at high risk of waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement.

Among the most significant problems, the report cited the inability of the Department of Defense to produce financial statements that could be audited.

Despite the General Accounting Office's recognition of this serious finan-

cial management program, which dates back to 1995, little has changed.

In May of this year, the Subcommittee on Government Management, Information and Technology, which I chair, again examined the Defense Department's financial management. We found that the Department still cannot produce auditable and accurate financial statements.

In fact, the Department's inspector general reported that in 1999 the Defense Department had to make book-keeping adjustments that totaled \$7.6 trillion. Think of it, \$7.6 trillion. Not millions, not billions, trillions. That is about what the national debt was. But they had to use that \$7.6 billion to reconcile its books with the United States Treasury and other sources of financial records.

The General Accounting Office's examination of those adjustments found that at least \$2.3 trillion of the adjustments were not supported by documentation, reliable information, or audit trails.

The Defense Department is not the only agency with such problems. It is just the biggest.

The subcommittee's examination of the 1999 financial audit of the Health Care Financing Administration found that the agency had paid out an estimated \$13.5 billion in improper payments for its Medicare fee-for-service program, something that is very important to the constituents of every Member of this House. That is roughly 8 percent of the fee-for-service program's \$170 billion budget.

As the General Accounting Office testified at a subcommittee hearing earlier this year, the Health Care Financing Administration accounting procedures are so inadequate that no one can estimate how much of this money was lost to fraud.

These are just two examples of the enormous cost of the Government's poor management, outmoded business practices, and insufficient financial controls.

At a subcommittee hearing on the government-wide consolidated financial statement that was held this year, the Comptroller General of the United States, David M. Walker, testified that serious financial management weaknesses also exist at the Internal Revenue Service, the Forest Service, and the Federal Aviation Administration.

These weaknesses, he said, place billions of dollars of the taxpayers' money at high risk of being lost to waste, fraud, and misuse.

There is only one way to find these abuses, and that is to ferret out each wasted dollar agency by agency, program by program, and line by line. To accomplish this goal, we must make management a clear and unequivocal priority across the entire executive branch of the Federal Government.

General Accounting Office investigators came to the same conclusion in a